



Violent crime is a senseless, often random act, and we see far too much of it in today's society. It is not enough to ensure that offenders receive punishment under the law. Victims and their families need support as they attempt to rebuild lives torn apart by tragedy.

Lisa Madigan

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Illinois Attorney General

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These Frequently Asked Questions do not cover every situation. For all requirements and complete information, consult the Crime Victims Compensation Act, 740 ILCS 45/1 et seq. at www.ilga.gov.

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Crime Victims
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Crime Victim Compensation: Frequently Asked Questions by Domestic Violence Victims

What Is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Act provides eligible victims of violent crime with up to \$27,000 in financial assistance for certain out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the crime.

Who Can Apply for Compensation as a Result of Domestic Violence?

- **The victim.** The actual victim of domestic violence can apply for any compensable expense, such as medical/hospital, counseling, loss of earnings and relocation.
- **The victim's minor children.** The victim's minor children (under the age of 18) are eligible for counseling expenses.
- **Any individual who witnessed the domestic violence.** Each witness should fill out a separate application for compensation. To be considered for compensation, a witness must be listed in the police report.

What Must a Domestic Violence Victim Do To Be Eligible for Compensation?

- ✓ Notify law enforcement. Typically, notification must occur within 72 hours of the crime. However, a domestic violence victim can meet this requirement by obtaining an Order of Protection after the incident. If you have the Order, send a copy to the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.
- ✓ File the application within 2 years of the date of the crime or within 1 year of the filing of a criminal charge, whichever is later. A separate application must be completed for each crime date.
- ✓ The victim and claimant must cooperate with law enforcement officials in the apprehension and criminal prosecution of the offender. A domestic violence victim is considered to have cooperated if the victim obtained an Order of Protection after the incident.
- ✓ The victim must not have contributed to his/her injury by: engaging in a wrongful act; being the offender or accomplice of the offender; or substantially provoking the incident.
- ✓ An individual is not eligible for payment until the victim is released from probation, parole, mandatory supervised release for a felony or from a correctional institution. However, the claim must still be filed within 2 years of the date of the crime or within 1 year of the criminal charge.

What Expenses Are Eligible for Reimbursement?

The Compensation Program may reimburse the following expenses if they are necessary due to the crime, and if no other sources of reimbursement are available. Caps or limits may apply.

- ✓ Medical/Hospital and Dental Expenses
- ✓ Mental Health Counseling
- ✓ Loss of Earnings (up to \$1,250/month)
- ✓ Relocation (may include temporary lodging, first month's rent, security deposit, moving van and storage)
- ✓ Replacement Costs (hearing aids, eyeglasses, replacement of clothing/bedding taken as evidence and locks/windows damaged as a result of the incident)
- ✓ Crime Scene Clean-up and Accessibility & Usability of Property (wheelchairs, ramps, etc.)
- ✓ Loss of Tuition
- ✓ Replacement Services Loss (up to \$1,250/month)
- ✓ Funeral/Burial Expenses (up to \$7,500)
- ✓ Loss of Support (up to \$1,250/month)
- ✓ Transportation to and from Medical and Counseling Treatment Facilities

What If There Is Insurance or Reimbursement from Other Sources?

The Compensation Program is the “payer of last resort.” If any other sources of reimbursement are available, the sources must be used before any Compensation Program payment can be made. Applicants are responsible for informing the Program of all available reimbursement sources, including:

- ✓ Medical/health, dental, vision, and life insurance
- ✓ Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act benefits
- ✓ Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act benefits
- ✓ Public Program benefits (Public Aid, Medicare, Worker's Compensation Benefits, etc.)
- ✓ Auto insurance
- ✓ Court-ordered restitution and civil lawsuit recoveries

Does the Money Go Directly to the Victim?

Reimbursement is made to the victim for out-of-pocket expenses, or to any person who paid the victim's expenses. Reimbursement may also be paid directly to service providers, such as hospitals, doctors, funeral homes and others, for expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the crime.

How Does the Process Work? How Do You Obtain Referrals or Check Status of a Claim?

To file an application, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at **1-800-228-3368 (TTY: 1-877-398-1130)** or download the application at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html. Once the application is submitted, it will be given a claim number. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General will review the information on the application and will request additional information and documentation to determine if you are eligible for the Compensation Program. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General makes a recommendation to the Court of Claims and the Court of Claims will render a decision based on the application and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General's recommendation. A copy of the decision will be mailed to the applicant (also referred to as the claimant). All payments are then issued by the Illinois Comptroller's Office.

If you have any questions about the Compensation Program or if you would like referrals for counseling or other services, please contact our office at **1-800-228-3368 (TTY: 1-877-398-1130)** or visit our website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov. Completed applications and other forms should be returned to:

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